Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08207 111153Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6110

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 8207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, XH, RO, BU, YO

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SEEKS TO MOVE BALKAN COOPERATION FORWARD

- 1. THE GOG MADE PUBLIC ON AUGUST 7, 1976 AN IDENTICAL LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS SENT TO PRESIDENTS CEAUSESCU OF ROMANIA, ZHIVKOV OF BULGARIA AND TITO OF YUGOSLAVIA AND TO PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL OF TURKEY CALLING FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO MOVE BALKAN COOPERATION FORWARD.
- 2. IN HIS LETTER, CARAMANLIS NOTED THAT THE GOG ON JULY 29 HAD FORWARDED TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN LAST FEBRUARY'S BALKAN CONFERENCE PROPOSALS REGARDING PROJUCTS IDENTIFIED AT THAT MEETING WHICH IT DEEMED WORTHY OF FOLLOWING UP. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE PROPOSALS ALONG WITH THOSE WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS (IN HIS LETTER TO TITO HE ACKNOWLEGED THE YUGOSLAVS WERE THE FIRST TO MAKE SUCH PROPOSALS) WILL NOW BE REVIEWED BY THE PARTICIPANT NATIONS SO THAT "SUITABLE METHODS FOR THEIR ADOPTION ON A MULTILATERAL LEVEL, INCLUDING A NEW CONFERENCE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 08207 111153Z

TO THIS END, MAY SUBSEQUENTLY BE DECIDED IN COMMON".

3. AFTER REMINDING THE ADDRESSEES THAT MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION CAN SERVE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA, CARAMANLIS CALLS UPON THE ADDRESSEES TO "CONTINUE TO FOLLOW, WITH THE SAME PERSONAL INTEREST AS UP TO NOW, THE EFFORTS FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF BALKAN COOPERATION".

4. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US THAT THERE IS NO MORE TO THE LETTER THAN MEETS THE EYE. WHATEVER THE PROSPECTS FOR BROAD INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION--AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE HERE IS HARDLY BULLISH ON THE MATTER--CARAMANLIS' LATEST MISSIVE DEMONSTRATES ONCE AGAIN THAT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PUSH IT, IF ONLY TO DENY HIS DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHARGE HIM WITH FAILING TO EXPLOIT "BALKAN OPPORTUNITIES". KUBISCH

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